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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8692
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS: CAMPAIGN OFF TO FAST START IN BIEN HOA

REF: A. SAIGON 6663 B. SAIGON 8254

1. REFTELS REPORTED IN SOME DEAIL ON THE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE FILED FOR THE LOWER HOUSE FROM BIEN HOA. THIRY PERSONS REMAIN IN THE RACE FOR THE FOUR BIEN HOA SEATS AT STAKE.

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2. ELECTION CAMPAIGN APPEARS OFF TO FAST START, WITH ENTHUSIASTIC PARTICIPATION OF CANDIDATES, THEIR MANAGERS, SUPPORTERS AND RELATIVES. PRE-ELECTION ACTIVITY BEGAN OCT 1 WITH MEETING BETWEEN PROVINCE CHIEF, OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS, AND CAMPA XGN MANAGERS. LOCAL ELECTION

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CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE WAS SELECTED AND IMMEDIATELY PROCEEDED TO SET RULES FOR TYPE AND QUANTITY OF PARTISAN CAMPAIGN MATERIAL TO BE PRODUCED. FIFTY PERCENT OF THIS MATERIAL IS TO BE PRODUCED BY OCT 9 AND THE RAMINDER BY OCT 14.

3. CAMPAIGN FUNDS PROVIDED FROM THE NATIONAL BUDGET ARE NOW, AS IN PREVIOUS ELECTIONS, TO BE DISBURSED DIRECTLY TO CANDIDATES AND THEIR CAMPAIGN MANAGERS BUT WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY PROVINCE OFFICIALS. THESE FUNDS ARE TO BE USED FOR PRINTING COSTS AND TO PAY SALARIES OF POLLING PLACE OBSERVERS. PROVINCE FUNDS WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE THE PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE HALL AS ELECTION COMAPAGN COMMITTEE HEADQUARTERS; TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION FOR CANDIDATES WITHIN

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THE PROVINCE TO AND FROM JOINT CAMAPAIGN RALLIES; TO DECORATE CAMPAIGN RALLY SITES; AND TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR RALLIES.

4. TWENTY-SIX OF THE THIRTY CANDIDATES APPEAR TO BE ACTIVELY REPRESENTED ON THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE. MEETINGS HAVE BEEN LIVELY WITH VARIOUS MATTERS, INCLUDING THE MONITORING OF THE PRINTING OF BALLOTS, BEING DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY. ECC HAS DECIDED ALL PUBLIC CAMPAIGN RALLIES WILL BE HELD JOINTLY; THERE WILL BE EIGHT OF THEM, BEGINNING OCT 10.

4. VIS HAS RECEIVED ANDJS DISTRIBUTING GENERAL GET-OUT-THE VOTE MATERIAL (UNCERTAINTY OVER VALIDATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS CAUSED LOCAL VIS OFFICIALS TO HESITATE IN DISTRIBUTION OF THESE MATERIALS, BUT THIS IS NOW UNDERWAY.)

5. AMERICAN OBSERVERS IN BIECOHOA NOTE THAT A MORE VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN THAN THAT WHICH PRECEDED THE SEPTEMBER 3 ELECTIONS APPEAR A CERTAINTY, WITH NUMEROUS CANDIDATES OF CONSIDERABLE EDUATION AND ABILITY IN THE FIELD.
BUNKER .

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